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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 9, 2021

Mr. Christopher Logan
Acting Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs
Grant Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security / FEMA
400 C Street S.W., 3N
Washington, D.C. 20472-3635

*Application No. EMW-2020-FG-15198

Dear Mr. Logan,

As the Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am pleased to offer my support for the Rutherford Fire Department's (RFD) application submitted to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. They are requesting \$412,801.50 in funding to acquire new radio equipment. **This application is one of my top priorities for funding in 2020 in the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey.**

Located in one of the most densely populated counties in New Jersey, the Borough of Rutherford is near many pieces of critical infrastructure. The George Washington Bridge, Lincoln and Holland Tunnel, Route 3 and 17 are all located in the RFD's response area. Furthermore, the Meadowlands Sports Complex, which now includes the newly constructed American Dream Mall, can hold hundreds of thousands of people. With 18,000 permanent residents, several large corporate offices, hotels, medical facilities, and various transportation hubs, we must acknowledge the incredible responsibility placed upon the Rutherford Fire Department. A responder to the Attack on the World Trade Center, the Rutherford Fire Department is a demonstrated leader in the area. They are right to request this equipment.

Communication and interoperability are key components to any emergency response. The Rutherford Fire Department is working with radio equipment that is more than 15 years of age. No longer P-25 compliant and incompatible with other mutual aid partners, the Rutherford Fire Department's radios are an impediment and impact the ability to safely perform necessary operations. On a daily basis, radio equipment malfunctions and presents a major hurdle. We cannot let the trend continue. Without federal funds, the Borough of Rutherford is unable to purchase this radio equipment. The allocation of this grant would empower an entire department with the tools they need to save lives and address emergencies. I stand with the Rutherford Fire Department.

Throughout my 24 years in the United States House of Representatives, I have fought at every opportunity to make sure our firefighters have the equipment, vehicles, training, and other resources they need to protect our citizens and their personal property. As the author of the FIRE Act, I understand that fire departments such as Rutherford's are an integral part of our emergency management system and require our utmost respect and assistance in their time of need. The Borough of Rutherford is an area that is

vulnerable to emergencies, and the urgency to provide safety for its citizens and first responders should not be overlooked.

I am pleased to support the Rutherford Fire Department and respectfully ask that you look favorably upon their request, within the boundaries of applicable rules and guidelines. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Pascrell, Jr." in a cursive style.

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress